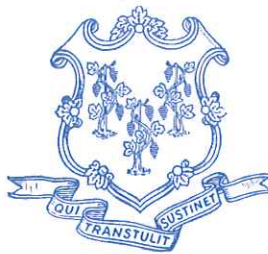


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State of Connecticut

SENATE

**Testimony of State Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff in Support of Senate Bill 6
AAC Net Neutrality Principals and Internet Privacy
Energy and Technology Committee
March 19, 2019**

Senator Needleman, Representative Arconti, Senator Formica, Representative Ferraro and distinguished members of the Energy and Technology Committee, I am here today to testify in favor of Senate Bill 6, *An Act Concerning Net Neutrality Principles and Internet Privacy*.

This bill seeks protect Connecticut residents in two ways. First to protect our pocketbooks from being overcharged by internet service providers and second to protect our privacy online.

When we talk about net neutrality we are primarily talking about regulating three acts by internet service providers (ISPs); throttling, establishing fast lanes and charging customers for content. Throttling is the act of slowing down a customer's data speeds - separate from the speed they are supposed to get in their contract. A fast lane is when a website pays an ISP to guarantee that their data does not get slowed down. And, charging a customer for content is when the ISP charges the customer extra for certain websites – similar to how you have to pay more for HBO in your cable package. In Portugal, without net neutrality, the internet is bundled like a cable package. Any one of these three acts goes against the idea of a free and open internet.

Net neutrality is an issue that affects all of Connecticut's residents. It impacts everything from television viewing habits to how information is conveyed to our state's residents. Large and small businesses face challenges when it comes to net neutrality. Without it ISPs are able to pick winners and losers. Perhaps Netflix is willing to pay for a fast lane. Maybe Amazon is not. The customer is able to get Netflix without buffering, whereas when they try to watch Amazon Prime they get frustrated by the slow speed of the movie or TV show they are trying watch. Is that fair? What about the small businesses in this state? Will they be able to compete? Will we still have companies such as Datto in Norwalk that had been able to grow from a small startup in Austin McChord's parent's basement to a billion dollar company just a decade later? While we won't be one of the first states to protect our residents, we still have an opportunity to separate ourselves from the "pack" and pass net neutrality.

The second part of this bill seeks to protect Connecticut residents' personal information. As we have become all too aware of in the last couple of years, our personal data is being bought and sold like a commodity. Your browsing history, your purchasing history and even your political philosophy are all of interest to someone who is willing to buy it. This bill prevents the sale of customers' personal information unless the customer expressly permits it.

I thank the committee for raising this bill and ask that you give it a favorable report. I look forward to working with you as this bill moves forward.